

MEETING OF
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, Delaware, December 19, 2013, with the following members in attendance:

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| Robert F. Garey, Chairman | Kevin Coyle representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC |
| William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman | Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture |
| L. Allen Messick, Jr., Treasurer | Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr., State Treasurer |
| Robert Emerson | Peter Martin, Forestry Council Chairman |

Absent: Theodore P. Bobola, Jr., and William H. "Chip" Narvel, Jr.

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Chief of Planning, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, and Cathy Mesick.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

I. Current Situation Report:

Austin Short informed the Board that we have a total of 1,170 farms in preservation districts totaling 163,530 acres, with a total of 754 farms under agricultural easements totaling 110,954 acres at a cost of \$198,780,209. For PDR 18, there are a total of 104 farms, comprising 10,919 acres, with a value of \$55,293,000. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 37 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,711 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804.

II. Young Farmers Report

Austin Short informed the Board that one Young Farmer Loan (Webber) settled since the previous meeting. Only the Bonniwell property remains from Round 3 and hopefully that loan will settle by January 31. Staff continue to receive prequalification applications and requests for information.

III. Monitoring Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that all Federal parcels have been visited, and 569 of the 664 non-Federal parcels have been visited.

IV. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval (Contingent Sale):

1. David Hrupsa Expansion of the Albert D. Warren District, ID#K-13-11-008H. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval contingent upon sale, the David Hrupsa Expansion of the Albert D. Warren District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Joseph Watson Farm Expansion of the C. Rodney Sharp District, ID#S-13-11-112F. After discussion, **Lisa Embert moved to accept for eligibility/final approval contingent upon sale, the Joseph Watson Farm Expansion of the C. Rodney Sharp District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
3. Scott & Caitlin Givens Expansion of the Phillips District, ID#S-13-11-015E. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval contingent upon sale, the Scott & Caitlin Givens Expansion of the Phillips District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Expansion Eligibility and Final Approval:

1. Robins Bend Farm Expansion of the Redden District, ID#S-13-09-172C After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Robins Bend Farm Expansion of the Redden District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. Diamond Horse Farm Expansion of the James L. Carpenter District, ID#S-13-11-260F. After discussion, **Allen Messick moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Diamond Horse Farm Expansion of the James L. Carpenter District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

VI. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee waived the right of veto for the above Expansions.

VII. Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

VIII. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the November 20, 2013 minutes. Hearing no changes, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **William Vanderwende moved to approve the November minutes, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

IX. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of November 30, 2013, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of November 30, 2013, \$61,795.46 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. Interest income was \$17.92. Expenditures for the month of November totaled \$30,968.71. After discussion, **Robert Emerson moved to accept the November financial statement as presented, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

X. Executive Session:

It was indicated by the Chairman that there was a need for an Executive Session to discuss the Young Farmer Loan program, and the County, Open Space and Farmland Preservation Initiative. **William Vanderwende moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.** Executive Session started at 8:45 a.m.

The Executive Session ended at 9:45 a.m. **Ed Kee moved to go out of Executive Session, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

XI. County, Open Space, and Aglands Preservation Cooperative Conservation Easement Acquisition Initiatives:

Special Natural Resources Areas Protection Initiative – Discussion centered on several items in the Special Natural Resources Areas Protection Initiative document. After discussion, **Allen Messick moved to approve the Special Natural Resources Areas Protection Initiative, seconded by Robert Emerson. Motion approved with seven aye votes and one nay vote by Peter Martin.**

Memorandum of Agreement between the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation, the Delaware Open Space Council, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and New Castle County. Discussion centered on several items in the Memorandum of Agreement. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement, seconded by Allen Messick. Motion approved with six aye votes and one nay vote by Peter Martin. Mr. William Vanderwende did not vote as he had to leave the meeting at 9:57 a.m. to attend another meeting.**

XII. Round 4 – Young Farmers Loan Program Applications:

Austin Short presented the Young Farmers Loan applications for Round 4. After discussion, four of the five applications were considered by the Board. The fifth application did not meet the criteria of having at least fifteen acres. **Robert Emerson moved to approve three of the loans (Zachary Riddle, William Bant, and Jared and Elisabeth Kauffman) as received, and approve the fourth loan (Heather Tull) contingent upon receipt of a sale contract, seconded by Allen Messick. Motion unanimously approved.**

XIII. Draft Legislation:

Mr. Parkowski presented the draft legislation to amend certain sections of the Aglands Preservation law. After considerable discussion, the Board agreed to postpone any decision until the January 15, 2014 meeting. Mr. Short agreed to mail a complete copy of the Aglands Preservation law with copies of the draft December minutes.

IX. Other Business:

1. Dates of 2014 Foundation Meetings.

The list of the 2014 Foundation meetings was reviewed by the Board. **Ed Kee moved to accept the 2014 Foundation meeting dates as listed, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**

X. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on January 15, 2014 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Garey
Chairman